GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:351
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2004
NEWS ON PRIVATE FM CHANNELS
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided not to allow private FM channels to broadcast news and current affairs programmes;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Amit Mitra Committee which was constituted to look into the FM sector has since made recommendations;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e)the steps taken by the Government to ensure that private FM channels do not violate the rules of the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): As per the terms and conditions of License Agreement given in clause- 7 of the Main Text `the license is for free to air broadcast of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carrier both excluding news and current affairs and any other services which are under jurisdiction of Department of Telecommunication.` It was also laid down in Clause 1 (a) Section − 6 of Tender Document that `The license shall be for free to air broadcasts of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carriers, both excluding News and Current Affairs.`

(c) The Committee has submitted its recommendations to the Ministry in November, 2003.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee are available on the Ministry`s website www.mib.nic. in

(e)Appropriate action is taken , whenever any violation of terms and condition of licence Agreement comes to the notice of the Government